AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An expression cassette containing an adenoviral VA1 promoter and a construct encoding an interfering RNA (RNAi) molecule, wherein the construct is operatively linked to the adenoviral VA1 promoter, ~~and~~ wherein the interfering RNAi molecule is a substrate for mammalian Dicer and wherein the construct encodes a hairpin siRNA (shRNA) or a precursor microRNA (precursor miRNA).

Claim 2 (previously presented): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding construct is contained within a non-essential stem region of the promoter.

Claim 3 (original): The expression cassette of claim 2, wherein the non-essential stem region contains a BstEII site.

Claim 4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The expression cassette of claim 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding construct comprises a loop containing from about 4 to about 9 bases.

Claim 6 (original): The expression cassette of claim 5, wherein the loop contains about 8 bases.

Claims 7-10 (canceled).

Claim 11 (currently amended): A mammalian cell into which has been introduced a construct encoding an interfering RNA (RNAi) molecule operatively linked to an adenoviral VA1 promoter, wherein the RNAi molecule is a substrate for mammalian Dicer and wherein the construct encodes a hairpin siRNA (shRNA) or a precursor microRNA (precursor miRNA).

Claim 12 (original): The mammalian cell of claim 11, wherein the mammalian cell is a primary cell.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The expression cassette of claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding construct is a construct encoding a hairpin siRNA (shRNA).

Claim 14 (currently amended): The expression cassette of claim ~~4~~ 1, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding construct is a construct encoding a precursor microRNA (miRNA).

Claim 15 (new): The mammalian cell line of claim 11, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding construct is a construct encoding a hairpin siRNA (shRNA).

Claim 16 (new): The mammalian cell line of claim 11, wherein the RNAi molecule encoding construct is a construct encoding a precursor miRNA.